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Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 HA-01 EUR-08 EB-04 L-01
SP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 SSO-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226447

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, BC, RH

SUBJECT: ICRC ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN IN BOTSWANA REFUGEE
CAMPS

REF: (A) GABORONE 2670 (B) STATE 211343 (NOTAL)

1. DESPITE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN MAKING SYSTEMATIC
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CONTACT WITH CHILDREN REFUGEES IN CAMPS IN BOTSWANA,
DEPARTMENT CANNOT ACCEPT POSITION THAT PREFERENCES OF
THESE CHILDREN REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF THEIR RETURN TO
THEIR HOMES IN RHODESIA CANNOT BE DETERMINED SIMPLY
BECAUSE ZAPU CAMP ADMINISTRATORS MAY FEEL THAT THE RETURN
OF LARGE NUMBERS OF THESE CHILDREN WOULD BE POLITICALLY
EMBARRASSING. DEPARTMENT CONCERN IS FURTHER HEIGHTENED

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BY SITUATION IN WHICH CAMPS FUNDED BY UNHCR ARE UNDER
THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF A SINGLE NATIONAL LIBERATION
MOVEMENT. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT US SHOULD JOIN WITH
BRITISH IN APPROACHING UNHCR AND ICRC TO INSIST UPON
SURVEY OF CHILDREN'S ATTITUDES AND, TAKING INTO CON-
SIDERATION CONDITIONS IN RHODESIA, THE RETURN TO RHODESIA
OF THOSE CHILDREN OR OTHER REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA WISHING
TO DO SO.

2. FOR LONDON: YOU SHOULD APPROACH FCO AT WORKING LEVEL

AND DISCUSS WITH THEM SITUATION DESCRIBED REFTELS,
NOTING THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO COORDINATE WITH UK
JOINT APPROACH TO UNHCR AND ICRC REPS IN GENEVA AND
GABORONE, UNDERLINING OUR CONCERNS AND MAKING VERY STRONG
REQUEST FOR ACTION.

3. FOR GENEVA: YOU SHOULD MEET WITH UK MISSION, DISCUSS
SITUATION WITH THEM ON BASIS OF REFTELS AND INFORM THEM
OF OUR IMPENDING APPROACH IN LONDON. PURPOSE OF APPROACH
IN GENEVA AT THIS TIME IS TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR DUAL
REPRESENTATION WHILE FORESTALLING UNILATERAL BRITISH
ACTIONS IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN TAKEN.

4. FOR GABORONE: YOU SHOULD INFORM BRITISH HIGH
COMMISSIONER OF ABOVE AND OBTAIN HIS REACTION REGARDING
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JOINT ANGLO-AMERICAN APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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Message Attributes

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